

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
PASTORAL COUNCIL OF ST. DENIS PARISH**

15 September 2009

A meeting of the Pastoral Council of St. Denis Parish was held at 7:00 p.m. on Sept 15, 2009 in the Parish Center offices. Present were Fr. Jose Shaji, Mary Bennett, Mary Chan, Silvia Vonderlinden, Roy Sardina, Frank Muenneman and Michel Baylocq. Jerry Griffin has moved from the Parish Council to the Finance Committee. Parish Staff (Sister de Chantal and Rosemary Lyon) were present by invitation. Father Jose called the meeting to order at 7 pm and led the opening prayer.

1. Approval of Minutes. The minutes from the June 9, 2009 meeting were approved.
2. Review of the summer.

A 50th Ordination anniversary mass for Msgr. John Rodriguez was held on June 14, at the 9:30 mass. A reception took place after the 11:30 mass. The reception was a great success, with excellent paellas served to a large, hungry crowd. Roy Sardina led a team that was exemplary in organizing the event, preparing the meals and cleaning up afterwards. There was a second reception for Msgr. Rodriguez at OLOW on 21 June.

A reception was held on 27 June to honor the parish volunteers. It was well attended and everyone had a good time.

An end-of-the summer mass was held in the memorial garden at St. Denis on 22 Aug, followed by a barbecue. It was well attended. Some comments were made that the outdoor PA equipment could be improved, since the people in the back had difficulty hearing the service. It was also suggested that accommodations could be made for seating seniors on a hard, level surface since some have difficulty walking on the lawn.

The mass on 13 Sept was held in the memorial garden to mark the beginning of Religious Education, and was followed by a barbecue. Everyone enjoyed the event and the food.

A senior luncheon was on 15 Sept at St. Denis, and had a good turnout.

3. New Business.

There will be a Volunteers Reception on 27 June, after the 5:30 mass at St. Denis. Appetizers and wine will be served.

Fr. Jose introduced the new Religious Education Co-ordinator, Rosemary Lyon, to the Parish Council. There are several changes in this year's program. First, all childrens' Religious Ed classes will be brought over to the Mass prior to Communion. Secondly, the Confirmation class will be held on Saturday night at 6:30 pm, and pizza will be

served. It is hoped that this will interfere less with weekend sports. Rosemary discussed her success in recruiting and educating new Catechists. They will now be able to work towards a Catechist certificate. It was suggested that the Catechists could be helped by volunteer Room Mothers, and that the past Children's Masses should be continued.

There was a discussion of the parish budget, and the necessary measures to accommodate the reduced donations. The Parish Council offered to meet with the Finance Committee for further discussions, if Fr. Jose thought it would be useful.

An Oktoberfest dinner will be held on 27 Sept, at 5 pm, in the Parish Hall. Ralph Oswald will be the master chef.

The annual Golf Tournament will be held on 8 October at the Menlo Park Country Club. The tournament will be followed by a dinner.

The annual Reno trip is planned for 19 October.

Fr. Jose's Installation Mass will be conducted by Bishop W. Justice at the 11:30 Mass at St. Denis, on 18 October. The Parish Council, led by Silvia Vonderlinden, is planning a reception to celebrate this milestone.

The remodeling of the OLOW parish house is in progress. This will create a space on the ground floor suitable for parish gatherings with modern kitchen and bathroom facilities. It is being paid for out of the OLOW funds, and should be complete before January.

There was a discussion of how to encourage further social service projects, and the plans for this year's Advent program.

4. Executive Session. Father Jose then asked if there were any Executive Session topics that needed to be discussed. There were none.

The meeting ended with refreshments. Fr. Jose and Mary Chan were kind enough to provide wine for everyone.

There being no further business to come before the St. Denis Catholic Parish Council, the meeting was adjourned until the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, at 7 pm.